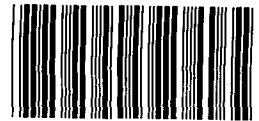




DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry  
Atlanta GA 30333

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## NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release: July 27, 1992

### ATSDR ANNOUNCES SITE VISIT ON AUGUST 18 and 19, 1992

**ATLANTA** -- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), part of the U.S. Public Health Service, is evaluating the Richardson Flats Tailings National Priorities List (NPL) site in Park City, Utah, focusing on various potential sources of environmental contamination to determine their public health implications. The NPL is a list of sites across the country the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers most hazardous.

ATSDR is updating a Public Health Assessment -- an evaluation of data and information on the release of hazardous substances into the environment -- of the sites. Public Health Assessments are conducted for all NPL sites. The reports detail information about hazardous substances at a site and evaluate whether exposure to those substances is occurring and might cause harm to people living, working or playing on or near the site. They identify health studies or other activities that might be needed and make recommendations to other government agencies, such as the EPA and state and local health and environmental departments, concerning actions to protect public health.

-more-

## Richardson Flats -- Add 1

Public Health Assessments consider --

- o what the levels (or concentrations) of hazardous substances are;
- o whether people might be exposed to contamination and how (through exposure pathways such as breathing air, drinking or contacting water, contacting or eating soil, or eating food);
- o what harm the substances might cause to people (or the contaminants' toxicity);
- o whether working or living nearby might affect people's health;
- o other dangers to people, such as unsafe buildings, abandoned mine shafts, or other physical hazards.

To make those determinations, ATSDR looks at three primary sources of information --

- o ***environmental data***, such as information available on the contaminants and how people could come in contact with them;
- o ***health data***, including available information on community-wide rates of illness, disease and death compared with national and state rates;
- o ***community concerns***, such as reports from the public about how the site affects their health or quality of life.

During August 18 and 19, ATSDR staff will tour the site and meet with local health department officials to gather information about site operations and health

Richardson Flats -- Add 2

concerns. On Wednesday the 19th, ATSDR health assessor Stephanie Prausnitz will be available to speak with concerned community members at the Summit County Health Services office, Prospector Square, from 9-10:30 a.m. Community members who cannot visit during that time may leave written questions with the county health department or call Lydia Ogden Askew, Community Involvement Liaison, at ATSDR headquarters in Atlanta, 404/330-9543 (24 hours).

Members of the press are requested to make an appointment to interview the ATSDR staff. They may do so by phoning Mike Greenwell, ATSDR Office of Policy and External Affairs, 404/639-0727.